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Summary record of the 32nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 7 June 2017, at 3 p.m.

President: Ms. Chalupová (Vice-President) ..... (Czechia)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatardová (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2017/57 and E/2017/L.22)

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(j) Women and development

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(a) Advancement of women (E/2017/8; E/2017/27-E/CN.6/2017/21)

1. **Mr. Donoghue** (Ireland), Chair-elect of the Commission on the Status of Women for its sixty-second session, reporting on the outcome of its sixty-first session, said that the agreed conclusions from that session had focused on the priority theme "women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work". The agreed conclusions contained a number of policy recommendations in key areas including strengthening normative legal policy frameworks to remove structural barriers, education and skills development for women and girls, implementing gender-responsive economic and social policies for women's economic empowerment, addressing the growing informality of work and the increasing mobility of women workers, managing technological and digital change, strengthening women's collective voice, leadership and decision-making in both the public and private sectors, and strengthening the role of the private sector in women's economic empowerment. The ministerial segment, comprising several round tables and dialogues, had enjoyed a high level of stakeholder participation which had enriched the discussion.

2. The Commission had drawn specific attention to the global gender pay gap so as to help galvanize action for change. It had emphasized progress in implementation of agreed conclusions from previous sessions, through voluntary presentations on lessons learned from national efforts made by several countries. There was also a review and evaluation of how national experiences of implementing the Millennium Development Goals had guided work towards the Sustainable Development Goals and had integrated gender perspectives. The empowerment of indigenous women was a focus area of the session, with presentations on participation of indigenous women in decision-making, violence against indigenous women and girls, their economic empowerment and the impact on them of climate change, to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Panel discussions on the global care economy and on closing the gap in gender statistics and data had also taken place.

3. The theme for the forthcoming sixty-second session of the Commission would be "challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and empowerment of rural women and girls".

4. **Ms. Puri** (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-WOMEN)) said that in 1997, the Economic and Social Council, in adopting its agreed conclusions on gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women, had recognized that gender equality would not be achieved without a systematic and consistent process to assess the implications for women and girls of any planned action. The context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had made the Council's guidance in that area more relevant than ever. Over the past 20 years there had been a significant increase in political will and commitment to gender mainstreaming through institutional arrangements and incorporating gender perspectives into planning, budgeting and reporting processes. The United Nations continued to assist Governments in developing gender-sensitive and responsive policies and strategies and in capacity development.

5. Views on the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming were mixed, however, and it must be emphasized that gender mainstreaming and stand-alone gender equality programmes were not mutually exclusive. The 2030 Agenda followed a twin-track approach of consistent and visible policy priority and targeted programmes for gender mainstreaming in all key policies, programmes and institutions.

6. The commitment to gender mainstreaming had been reinvigorated through the 2030 Agenda, with its dedicated Goal 5 and 11 other related goals. It was also clear that more human and financial resources were needed; underinvestment in gender continued to impede results, yet remained the norm. The number of United Nations staff working on gender at least half of the time stood at only 3.5 per cent, not enough to make a difference. Business as usual could not continue if gender equality and empowerment were to be

achieved. Effective accountability mechanisms, such as the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, were essential to propel implementation and yield a clear and consistent picture of the strengths and challenges related to gender mainstreaming. Similarly, the United Nations Country Team Performance Indicators for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, known as the "scorecard", provided accountability at the country level. Both the Action Plan and the scorecard were due for an update in early 2018, and the support of Member States would be needed.

7. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2017/57), she said that in 2017 a record 65 entities had reported under the System-wide Action Plan, and that compliance with its indicators had more than doubled over the past five years. Gender policies and plans remained one of the strongest drivers of institutional change. Some troubling trends must be noted, however: the current rate of progress was insufficient to meet all performance requirements set by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and the rate of progress had actually slowed. For a fifth consecutive year, resource allocation had emerged as the weakest indicator.

8. To address the critical gaps in progress in gender mainstreaming, a number of priority actions were needed. Sustained political leadership and commitment at the highest levels remained an essential condition for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Adequate human and financial resources in support of gender mainstreaming were also crucial. Operational coherence, capacity and expertise at the level of country teams, which also entailed support in producing robust gender statistics and data, must be enhanced and gender mainstreaming across the development peace and humanitarian agendas strengthened. Lastly, tracking of financial allocations and expenditures for gender equality must be increased, using gender markers to identify resource gaps and commit to specific targets.

9. **Mr. Rios Sanchez** (Observer for Mexico) said that his delegation regretted that not all agencies of the system had responded to requests for information under the System-wide Action Plan and that the goal of gender equality had not been achieved. Mexico had taken an active part in negotiations on the text, in particular regarding special temporary measures for women's equality. His delegation looked forward to the forthcoming adoption of the second System-wide Action Plan and the progress that would be achieved within that framework.

Draft resolution E/2017/L.22: Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

10. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

11. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.22 was adopted.*

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-first session (E/2017/27-E/CN.6/2017/21)

12. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections B and C, of the report.

Section B
Draft resolution: Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

13. A *recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Peru, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.

Against:

Australia, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

14. *The draft resolution was adopted by 23 votes to 2, with 17 abstentions.*

15. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that her delegation wished to express its gratitude for the adoption of the draft resolution, which signified the constant and long-standing support of many Member States for the Palestinian people in their search for a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine. The draft resolution was a reaffirmation of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, including women and girls, living under Israeli occupation. The text reiterated the grave concerns

regarding the plight of Palestinian women and girls in the light of harmful Israeli practices which had inflicted a humanitarian crisis and violated fundamental legal principles, including United Nations resolutions and the Geneva Conventions.

16. Although hope for a peaceful solution was fading, the vote on the draft resolution underscored the role the United Nations could and must play in that solution. The Palestinian people remained steadfast and resilient in their determination to achieve the goal of an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Section C
Draft decision: Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Commission

17. *The draft decision was adopted.*

18. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the sixty-third, sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as contained in document E/2017/8.

19. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.